

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02332 091731Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----054191 091733Z /42

O R 091655Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6300
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 1426

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2332

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: SUSPICION OF US-UK COLLUSION ON RHODESIAN INTERNAL OPTION

1. DIRECT EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH LEADING ZAMBIANS IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND REPORTS OF THE VIEWS OF OTHERS, INDICATE CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION IN LUSAKA THAT THE US AND UK MAY BE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING AN INTERNAL OPTION IN RHODESIA. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS OCCURRENCE OF TLZO EVENTS: RENEWAL OF ACTIVITY IN THE U.S. AND BRITAIN TO SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT, AND SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION TO BE FOLLOWED BY A SETTLEMENT INSIDE RHODESIA. THE SUSPICION IS THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IS WORKING TOWARDS SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE
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WITH SMITH PERMITTING HIM TO STAGE AN ELECTION WHICH WOULD INSTALL MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE AS LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

2. IRRATIONAL AS SUCH A CONTENTION MAY BE, IT IS PERHAPS NO MORE SO THAN THE FEELING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA THAT THE U.S. AND UK ARE ALLOWING THE

PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DICTATE TERMS OF OUR PROPOSAL,

TO A CERTAIN DEGREE CRITICISM AND SUSPICION OF THE
U.S. AND UK AS INTERMEDIARIES IS TO BE EXPECTED AND
IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARILY HARMFUL
FOR EACH OF THE PARTIES TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GO
AHEAD WITHOUT IT.

3. NEVERTHELESS, I AM CONCERNED THAT MUZOREWA'S VISIT TO
LONDON, COMING JUST AT THE TIME OF THE BOTHA MEETING WITH DR.
OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE, WILL ADD CONSIDERABLE FUEL TO THE
CONTENTION THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING SMITH'S INTERNAL OPTION.
WE CERTAINLY HAVE EVERY REASON TO SEE MUZOREWA AS WELL AS
NKOMO BUT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT IN JUXTAPOSITION WITH BOTHA'S
SEEMS UNFORTUNATE. I UNDERSTAND THERE IS SOME THOUGHT THAT OWEN
MAY SEE MUZOREWA TWICE: ONCE BEFORE THE BOTHA VISIT, AND THEN
AGAIN AFTER IT. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS WOULD GREATLY STIMULATE
SUSPICIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. FURTHERMORE, SUCH CONCERNS MIGHT
CAUSE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS TO HESITATE IN ISSUING INVITATIONS
TO DR. OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO MEET WITH THEM IN AFRICA,
PARTICULARLY IF SUCH A MEETING WOULD APPEAR TO BE A FRONTLINE
STAMP OF APPROVAL ON U.S.-UK SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPTION.
AS A MINIMUM IT COULD CAUSE THE FRONTLINE LEADERS TO ISSUE
STATEMENTS REINFORCING THEIR EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR A SETTLEMENT
ACCEPTABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, ZA
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